AMENDMENTS

<u>Amendments to the Disclosure</u>

There is a typographical error in the specification as filed. Accordingly, please replace

paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] In individual cases, if it is assumed that all capacitances and resistances determining the

discharge are combined together in a time constant T, the following is afforded for the autoshort

voltage:

$$\left[\left[V_{auto}(t) = V_{auto}e^{(\frac{1}{T})}\right]\right] \ \underline{V_{auto}(t) = V_0 e^{(-\frac{t}{T})}}. \quad \text{That is to say,} \ \frac{dV_{auto}}{dt}\frac{1}{V_{auto}} = -\frac{1}{T}$$

is thus inversely proportional to the time constant. After that conversion of the signal it is

possible to determine a variation in the time constant, for example with an adaptive threshold

value process. When such a process is adopted for example a sliding mean value of the derived

and standardised curve is formed. If a value of that curve exceeds the sliding mean value by a

predetermined threshold value a change in the time constant is recognised.